

Can you pass the 8th Grade Final Exams of 1895

This is an actual 8th grade final exam from 1895. It is a handwritten essay test using no computers, notes or reference material. Everything must come out of your head in one sit down session in front of the teacher. There is a time limit of four hours.

If you fail it as a 13 year old you are considered unsuitable for school and must do hard work on the farm all day for the next six years without pay. Also if you fail it you will have a free trip to the woodshed where father will administer a thorough switching to your bare butt with a willow switch. Many parents took education very seriously. They also had to pay taxes for the schools whether their kids went or not. I remember my grandfather who only had an 8th grade education helping me with my square roots in high school and correcting me on math problems and in other topics when he was in his 80s. He said he learned all subjects well because he had to recite them to the teacher and then help teach the younger kids in a one room school. Using correct spelling, grammar and good hand writing elaborate in essay form the answers. Use no notes.

Grammar (Time Limit - one hour)

Give nine rules for the use of Capital Letters.

Name the Parts of Speech and define those that have no Modifications.

Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.

What are the Principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal Parts of lie, play and run.

Define Case, Illustrate each Case.

What is Punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of Punctuation.

Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time Limit - 1.25 hours)

Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.

A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?

If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50 cts/bushel, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?

District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?

Find cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.

Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.

What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at 20 per metre?

Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.

What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance around which is 640 rods?

Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

U.S. History (Time Limit - 45 minutes)

Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.

Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.

Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.

Show the territorial growth of the United States.

Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.

Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.

Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?

Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

Orthography (Time Limit - one hour)

What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?

What are elementary sounds? How classified?

What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals?

Give four substitutes for caret 'u.'

Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.

Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.

Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.

Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the

sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.

Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.

Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

Geography (Time Limit - one hour)

What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?

How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?

Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?

Describe the mountains of North America.

Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.

Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.

Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.

Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?

Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.

Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

Again no notes all out of head. This is the 8th grade final exam. You were expected to know this and much more. Most students passed it and were issued an 8th grade diploma.

Again when I was in High School my grandfather, who only had this 8th grade education helped me with square roots and many other things and I was amazed. He stated we all were expected by our parents to learn and we taught the younger ones daily so we learned things and relearned them when we taught them all in a one room schoolhouse with few books and outhouses. Many parents in the old days could not read or write and they expected their children learn to be a success.